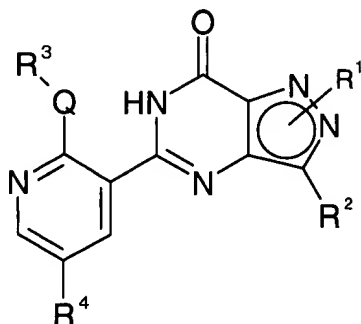


In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I):



I

or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt , polymorph and/or solvate thereof, wherein

Q represents O or NR⁵

R¹ represents H, lower alkyl, Het, alkylHet, aryl or alkylaryl (which latter five groups are all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR⁶, OC(O)R⁷, C(O)R⁸, C(O)OR⁹, C(O)NR¹⁰R¹¹, NR¹²R¹³ and SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵)

R² represents H, cyano, nitro, OR⁶, OC(O)R⁷, C(O)R⁸, C(O)OR⁹, C(O)NR¹⁰R¹¹, NR¹²R¹³, SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵, lower alkyl, Het, alkylHet, aryl or alkylaryl (which latter five groups are all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR⁶, OC(O)R⁷, C(O)R⁸, C(O)OR⁹, C(O)NR¹⁰R¹¹, NR¹²R¹³ and SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵)

R³ represents H, lower alkyl, alkylHet or alkylaryl (which latter three groups are all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR⁶, OC(O)R⁷, C(O)R⁸, C(O)OR⁹, C(O)NR¹⁰R¹¹, NR¹²R¹³ and SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵)

R⁴ represents H, halo, cyano, nitro, OR⁶, C(O)R⁸, C(O)OR⁹, C(O)NR¹⁰R¹¹, NR¹²R¹³, NR¹⁶Y(O)R¹⁷, N[Y(O)R¹⁷]₂, S(O)R¹⁸, SO₂R¹⁹, C(O)AZ, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, Het, alkylHet, aryl, alkylaryl (which latter seven groups are

all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR^6 , $OC(O)R^7$, $C(O)R^8$, $C(O)OR^9$, $C(O)NR^{10}R^{11}$, $NR^{12}R^{13}$ and $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$)

Y represents C or S(O)

A represents lower alkylene

Z represents OR^6 , Het or aryl (which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR^6 , $OC(O)R^7$, $C(O)R^8$, $C(O)OR^9$, $C(O)NR^{10}R^{11}$, $NR^{12}R^{13}$ and $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$)

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR^6 , $OC(O)R^7$, $C(O)R^8$, $C(O)OR^9$, $C(O)NR^{10a}R^{11a}$, $NR^{12}R^{13}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ and $NR^{20}S(O)_2R^{21}$ or Het or aryl optionally substituted with one or more of said latter thirteen groups) or one of R^{10} and R^{11} may be lower alkoxy, amino or Het, which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with lower alkyl

R^{10a} and R^{11a} independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR^6 , $OC(O)R^7$, $C(O)R^8$, $C(O)OR^9$, $NR^{12}R^{13}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ and $NR^{20}S(O)_2R^{21}$ or Het or aryl optionally substituted with one or more of said latter thirteen groups) or one of R^{10a} and R^{11a} may be lower alkoxy, amino or Het, which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with lower alkyl

R^{12} and R^{13} independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from OR^6 , $C(O)OR^9$, $C(O)NR^{22}R^{23}$ and $NR^{24}R^{25}$), one of R^{12} or R^{13} may be C(O)-lower alkyl or C(O)Het (in which Het is optionally substituted with lower alkyl), or R^{12} and R^{13} together represent C_{3-7} alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally unsaturated, optionally substituted by one or more lower alkyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by O or NR^{26})

R^{14} and R^{15} independently represent H or lower alkyl or R^{14} and R^{15} , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocyclic ring

R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from OR^6 , $C(O)OR^9$, $C(O)NR^{22}R^{23}$ and $NR^{24}R^{25}$) or one of R^{16} and R^{17} may be Het or aryl, which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with lower alkyl

$R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}$ and R^{25} independently represent H or lower alkyl

R^{18} and R^{19} independently represent lower alkyl

R^{21} represents lower alkyl or aryl

R^{26} represents H, lower alkyl, aryl, $C(O)R^{27}$ or $S(O)_2R^{28}$

R^{27} represents H, lower alkyl or aryl

R^{28} represents lower alkyl or aryl

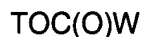
Het represents a four- to twelve-membered heterocyclic group, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, oxo, lower alkyl, OR^6 , $OC(O)R^7$, $C(O)R^8$, $C(O)OR^9$, and $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, which group contains one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulphur and mixtures thereof

said process comprising reacting, in an inert, alcoholic, or mixed inert/alcohol solvent, a compound of formula (III), (IV) or (V) in the presence of $^-OR^3$ and a hydroxide trapping agent which is an ester of the formula

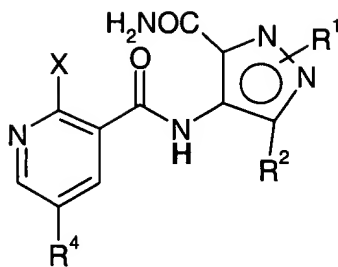


wherein OT is OR^3 or OT is the residue of non-nucleophilic alcohol or TOH is an alcohol which can be azeotropically removed during the reaction;
and $C(O)W$ is the residue of a carboxylic acid;

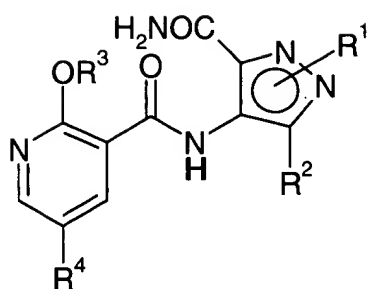
or, alternatively, in the case of compounds of formulae (IV) or (V) reacting, in an inert, alcoholic, or mixed inert/alcohol solvent and in the presence of an auxiliary base and a hydroxide trapping agent which is an ester of the formula



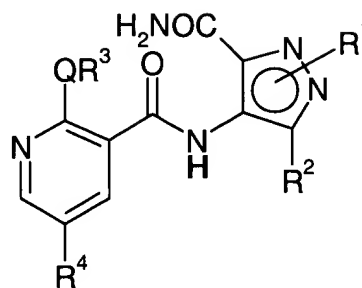
as defined above



(III)



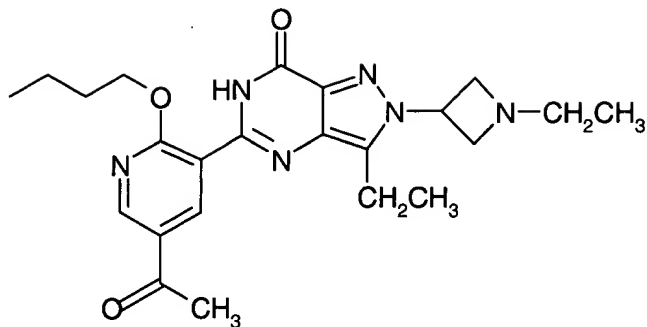
(IV)



(V)

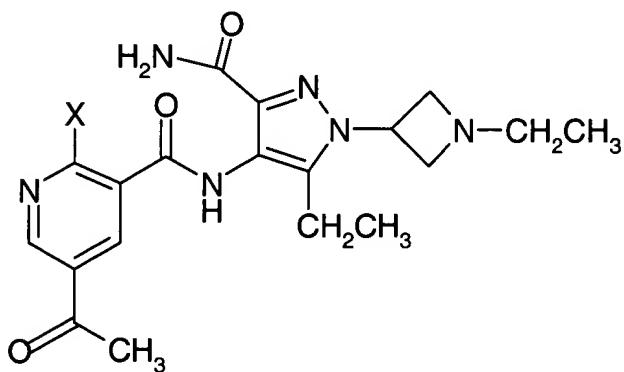
wherein X is a leaving group and Q and R¹ to R⁴ are as defined above,
provided that in said process, Q is not NR⁵ when a compound of
formula (III) or (IV) is used therein.

2. (Previously amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula
(IA):

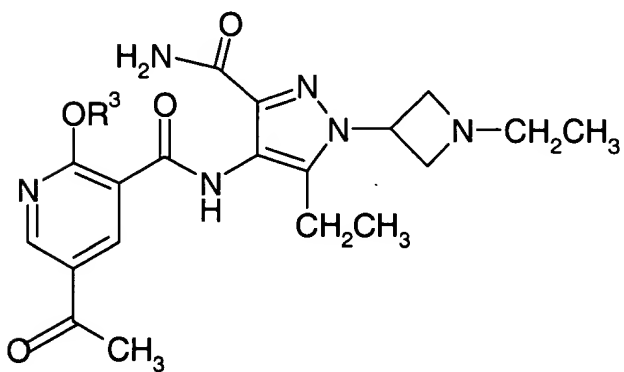


(IA)

said process comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIIA) or (IVA) respectively

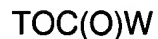


(IIIA)



(IVA)

in the presence of OR^3 and a hydroxide trapping agent, which is an ester of the formula



wherein OT is OR^3 or OT is the residue of non-nucleophilic alcohol or TOH is an alcohol which can be azeotropically removed during the reaction;
and C(O)W is the residue of a carboxylic acid;

wherein OR^3 is $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}-$, or alternatively in the case of compounds of formula (IVA) reacting in the presence of a hydroxide trapping agent and an auxiliary base, wherein OR^3 in the case of formation of compound (IA) from (IVA) is $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}-$ and wherein X in formulae (IIIA) is a leaving group.

3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 2 which comprises reacting a compound of formula (IIIA) wherein X is ethoxy in the presence of n-butyl acetate and potassium carbonate in n-butanol.